Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06599 130238Z ACTION AGR-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EARG UR

SUBJECT: AGATT SUMMER CROP TRAVEL SCHEDULE

1. FOR SEVERAL REASONS, IT IS CONSIDERED BEST TO GENERALLY FINALIZED OUR AGATT OFFICE SUMMER GRAIN SURVEY TRAVEL PLANS IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. SET FORTH BELOW ARE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. SPRING GRAINS/NEW LANDS:

1. TRAIN TRAVEL: MOSCOW-UFA-SARATOV-KHARKOV; (ALL OR PARTS THEREOF WHICH ARE APPROVED) DATES ON/ABOUT JUNE 15/20.

W. AIR TRAVEL AND LOCAL AUTO: KUSTANAY-TSELINOGRAD, ON/ABOUT JUNE 3-9; AND NOVOSIBIRSK-BARNAUL ON/ABOUT JUNE 8-13

B. AUTO TRAVEL IN OLD RUSSIA:

1. PYATIGORSK-KRASNODAR-ROSTOV-KAHRKOV-ZAPOROZHE, JUNE 21-25;

2. ZAPOROZHE-SIMFEROPOL-KHARKOV-KIEV-ODESSA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUNE 26-29;

3. ODESSA-CHERNOVTSY-KIEV-OREL-MOSCOW, JUNE 30-JULY 3.

2. TRIPS DESCRIBED IN A(2) WERE SELECTED BECAUSE OF OVERALL IMPORTANCE OF AREAS AND BECAUSE THEY ARE OPEN CITIES.

WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL TOO LATE WHETHER SPRING GRAINS TEAMS WILL BE PERMITTED TO VISIT THEM. THEY ARE, NEVERTHELESS, SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF WASHINGTON CONSIDERS OTHER OPEN AREAS MORE IMPORTANT. THESE TRIPS ARE, OF COURSE, A GAMBLE. WE DON'T KNOW HOW SUCCESSFUL WE WIL BE IN GETTING CROP STATUS INFORMATION.

3. WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE OR OTHER INSTRUX NEEDED ON ABOVE ASAP. NEXT STEP WILL BE TO SEEK MINAG SUPPORT OF THE DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL REQUEST NOTES WHICH WE INTEND TO SUBMIT IMMEDIATELY. MINAG SUPPORT WILL BE REQUESTED IN WRITING AND IN NEW LANDS INCLUDE APPOINTMENTS WTH AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS AND FARM VISITS. AGATT WIL PERSONALLY DELIVER NOTES TO MFA PROTOCOL OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TRAVEL. EMBASSY PREPARED ESCALLATE PRESSURE ON MFA IF DIFFICULTIES ARE ENCOUNTERED.

4. ABOVE MEASN THAT HICKMAN WILL BE NEEDED IN MOSCOW ON JUNE 20 AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. HE IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE THE ENTIRE INTOURIST ROUTE AUTO TRIP EXCEPT FOR SIMFEROPOL TO KIEV. TO GIVE HIM REST, HE WILL FLY FROM SIMFEROPOL TO KIEV AND BE PICKED UP AGAIN THERE. TOON

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